Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma
Questions & Answers

*For the **Core 40 with Technical Honors** diploma, students must:*
- *Complete all requirements for Core 40.*
- *Complete a career-technical program (8 or more related credits)*
- *Earn a grade of "C" or better in courses that will count toward the diploma.*
- *Have a grade point average of a "B" or better.*
- *Complete two of the following options, one must be A or B:*
  - A. *Score at or above the following levels on WorkKeys: Reading for Information - Level 6; Applied Mathematics - Level 6; Locating Information - Level 5*
  - B. *Complete dual high school/college credit courses in a technical area (6 college credits)*
  - C. *Complete the Professional Career Internship course or a Cooperative Education course*
  - D. *Complete an industry-based work experience as part of two-year technical education program (minimum 140 hours)*
  - E. *Earn a state-approved, industry-recognized certification*

What is a "career-technical program of 8 or more related credits" and what courses count toward meeting this requirement?

For the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma, a "career-technical program" may include a combination of introductory Career-Technical Education (CTE) courses at the high school and additional courses in a CTE program at an area career center. Family & Consumer Sciences, Cooperative Education, Internship, Business, Agriculture and Technology Education courses at the high school and any CTE course or program at the career center may count toward the 8 credit requirement.

What if a student changes his or her mind about a career path?

Some students will change their career path as they explore different careers. This can be a positive learning opportunity. Despite these changes, students should be encouraged to complete at least 8 credits in a sequence of courses that aligns with their career interests.

Can a "C-" count toward the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma?

Identical to the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma, the definition of what constitutes a "C" grade for the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma is a local decision. Some schools may count a "C-" while others will only count a "C."

Is it possible for a student earn both a Core 40 with Technical Honors and Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma?

Yes.

Should both stickers go on the diploma?

That's a local school decision.

May "Career-Technical" courses completed for the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma also count as "Career/Technical" <u>directed electives</u> for Core 40?

Yes.

When it says "complete two of the following, one must be A or B," could one choice be A <u>and</u> B?

Yes.

Students earning a Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma and who qualify are eligible to receive 100% of the Frank O'Bannon Grant for going to college. Will this option also be available to Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma graduates who qualify?

Yes, beginning with the students who graduate with a Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma in 2010.

What is WorkKeys and how do schools provide these tests?

WorkKeys is series of work-readiness assessments administered by the ACT. Thousands of employers around the country, including hundreds in Indiana, utilize WorkKeys assessments when assessing applicants.

In Indiana, three WorkKeys assessments, in the areas of Applied Mathematics; Reading for Information and Locating Information, are offered free of charge to seniors through regional Work One Centers. Schools and Work One personnel determine the best time and method of administering the tests. Often, the tests are administered in the school setting at a time determined by the school. Go to http://www.in.gov/dwd/2359.htm to find a list of Work One centers and contact information.

Are WorkKeys assessments difficult?

Students who choose to fulfill the WorkKeys option (Option A) of the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma instead of the dual credit option (Option B), will need to attain a score of 6 or higher on the Applied Mathematics assessment, 6 or higher on the Reading for Information assessment, and a 5 or higher on the Locating Information test. Approximately 8% of Indiana students who have taken these three WorkKeys assessments in the past have been able to score at or above this level.

If a student chooses the dual credit option, what college courses count?

Any dual high school/college credit course in which the student earns both high school and transcripted college credits in a technical area may be used to meet this requirement. Students are strongly encouraged to complete a career-technical program at the career center since those higher level CTE courses count in the sequence and provide a better preparation for postsecondary success.

Must the college courses be on the Core Transfer Library to count for the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma?

No. The Core Transfer Library, at www.transferin.net/ctl , helps students and families by ensuring that earned dual college credits from college courses listed on the CTL will transfer to any public college in the state. While additional technical courses are being added to the CTL, students may meet Option B of the Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma requirements by earning dual high school/college credits through any locally approved, technical dual credit course.

How do schools set up dual credit programs?

Dual credit and/or articulation agreements are established between a local high school and an area college or university. The high school and the college should ensure that the dual credit program aligns with the Indiana Dual Credit policy established by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. Download a copy of the Dual Credit policy at http://www.che.state.in.us/Policies/

Explain what is meant by Option C, "Complete a Professional Career Internship course or Cooperative Education course (2 credits)"

Professional Career Internship is a state-approved course title. Schools may find a complete course description at http://doe.state.in.us/publications/courses2.html by clicking on Business and Information Technology – page 9. The complete list of state-approved Cooperative Education courses is on the same webpage.

What is "an industry-based work experience" in Option D?

An "industry-based work experience" is essentially a senior year capstone experience in the student's chosen career pathway that:
- o   involves a minimum of 10 hours per week for one semester or a minimum of 140 hours over a full school year,
- o   is developed through an education/training agreement based on the standards,
- o   includes a portfolio that documents the student's work and reflections on what has been learned,
- o   incorporates related theory instruction and on the job training.

Schools may choose to use the new "Work-Based Experience" course title for denoting this experience on the high school transcript – but a transcript acknowledgement is not required as long as the student meets the criteria listed above.

What is an example of a senior year, industry-based work experience?

Some senior students complete a two semester work experience at a local auto dealer in their senior year of a two-year Automotive Service Technology program.

Where can I find a list of the "state-approved, industry-recognized certifications?"

A list of the certifications acceptable for Option E of the Core 40 with Technical Honors Diploma is available on the IDOE Career & Technical Education website at http://www.doe.state.in.us/octe/welcome.html